



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

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**Governor Baker, DCR Commissioner Sanchez, State & Local Officials Gather
to Dedicate
South Boston's Donald F. Higgins Memorial Street Hockey Rink**

South Boston- Saturday, June 13, 2015- Today, at a special event honoring Donny Higgins, a South Boston man who passed away after a ten month battle with colon cancer, Governor Charlie Baker joined with Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Carol Sanchez, State Senator Linda Dorcea Fory, State Representative Nick Collins, local officials, and members of the Friends of Donny Higgins Memorial Fund in officially dedicating a street hockey arena in Donny's name.

"Today's dedication of the Donald F. Higgins Memorial Street Hockey Rink celebrates and memorializes a man who had a vision to better his community," **said Governor Charlie Baker.** "Donny Higgins was a community leader, a wonderful husband, a loving father, and remained dedicated to his friends and family. Sadly he was taken too soon, but his memory will live on."

Well rooted within his community, Donny Higgins grew up across the street from the Francis L. Murphy Memorial Skating Rink, where he worked as a Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) skate guard. Donny Higgins, who passed away in July 2010 at the age of 37, pushed to transform an underutilized tennis court located behind the ice skating rink into the now popular street hockey arena in South Boston.

"Because of Donny Higgins' vision, generations will be able to utilize the Donald F. Higgins Memorial Street Hockey Rink for years to come," **said Commissioner Carol Sanchez.** "The Baker-Polito Administration and the Department of Conservation and Recreation remain committed to improving the state's parks, recreational facilities, and visitor services throughout the Commonwealth to facilitate a healthy, active lifestyle."

"Like so many young people in South Boston, Donny Higgins had a passion for hockey both on and off the ice. At the age of 10, Donny fought hard to have this court shifted from tennis to street hockey, showcasing his civic involvement which is a hallmark of the Higgins family," **said**

State Senator Linda Dorcena Forry. “While Donny was taken away from his beloved family and community, this rink will now allow his legacy to live on forever. I want to thank ‘The Friends of Donny Higgins’, led by his brother Billy, and his parents Billy and Rachel, for their incredible work to make this day a reality. Finally, I want to thank Donny’s wife Trish and his four children for sharing this special man with all of us.”

"I was proud to sponsor the legislation naming the street hockey rink at Farragut Park in honor of Donald F. Higgins,” **said State Representative Nick Collins.** “It is my hope that by memorializing the rink in Donny's name we will ensure that his work in transforming the street hockey rink into a haven for the youth of South Boston will be remembered and inspire generations of young hockey players for years to come."

To commemorate the dedication, Saturday featured a full day of family fun, which included a street hockey tournament and cook-out where visitors came to celebrate the life of Donny Higgins. Donny is survived by his wife Tish, and their four children, who at the time, the oldest was only five years of age.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Carol Sanchez, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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